



# *The Scottish Society of Louisville*

OCTOBER 2023

VOLUME XXVI

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Presenting the SSL Athlete of the Day Award to winner Heather McDowel are Mindy McIntish-Shetter and Regional Celtic Commissioner Jack Bowling.

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Cover photo courtesy of SSL

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**THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE**

**Established in 1993 as a nonprofit organization to enrich the cultural lives of members in the Kentuckiana area.**

**The Society offers exposure to Scottish heritage and preserves, enhances and fosters pride in our Scottish ancestry.**

**The Society sponsors local and regional activities and is a nonsectarian organization with no religious or political affiliation.**

## *Welcome New Members*

The members of the SSL look forward to meeting like-minded people, interested in extending their knowledge about all things Celtic. We encourage those with questions about their own heritage, as well as anyone interested in participating in our member meetings and our many interesting events. Do not be shy about suggesting programs, speakers, or events you are interested in learning more about. Member participation is always encouraged.

Welcome to our new members. Coming into a new group can be a little scary, but know that if you have any questions, just ask. The people in the SSL are some of the friendliest you would ever want to meet. Here is a little bit of information to get you started:

- Read the newsletter and the website. All upcoming events will be listed both places. If you want more information, you can contact any of the board members.
- All meetings will have a program, some time to socialize, and a business meeting.
- January/February brings our Burns' Night Gala. You won't want to miss this! There will be food, drink, raffles, entertainment, and an all-around good time!
- May starts our "Event" season. The Society sets up a booth at many local and state Scottish and Celtic events, and even a couple of out-of-state events. Don't be afraid, jump on in and help us in our booth. It's not hard, and everyone will help. It is a great way to get to know some of the members and recruit new members.
- October is a really fun meeting. We have a dinner and an auction with Halloween-themed decorations. Members will be informed of what type of dish to bring according to their last name. The auction is so much fun. Everyone is asked to bring at least one item to donate. Now, you will find that a lot of the items are things you would love to have, but some are "White Elephants" that circulate among the members. Proceeds benefit the Heritage Fund, which helps promote Celtic related studies by individuals.
- November is our holiday meeting, with treats and Christmasy activities.
- In December, we do not have a membership meeting.

We hope that you will attend as many meetings as possible. We are so happy to have you as a part of the group!

## *More Information for New Members*

### *Find Us On The Internet*

Webpage: <http://scotsoflou.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ScotsofLou>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/The Scottish Society of Louisville](http://www.facebook.com/TheScottishSocietyofLouisville)

On our Facebook page, you are welcome to add pictures from Society events, to post/share some Scottish history or information, or just say "Hi".

### *Life Membership*

Our Society offers a Life Membership Program. You can attain this status by paying a one-time membership fee of 10 times the current dues rate. At this time, a single life membership is \$240, and a family life membership is \$360.

Please see the Membership Commissioner or for more details email at [scotsoflou@gmail.com](mailto:scotsoflou@gmail.com). All new life members are acknowledged at the Burns' Night Gala.

### *Heritage Fund*

The Heritage Fund Committee is accepting applications for the dispersal of scholarship funds. The Fund helps support the efforts of SSL members to pursue studies of the many different aspects of Celtic culture, which may include music (piping, drumming, fiddling, etc.), art (dancing, weaving, etc.) language (Gaelic) and athletics (Highland Games). This fund can also support a person's interest in an educational program or project that furthers the understanding of Scottish culture and history.

Scottish Society members in good standing can apply for funds or can sponsor non-members for scholarships.

The application form and guidelines can be picked up at the monthly SSL meetings from the Heritage Fund Committee Chairperson, Gary Schweitzer, or by email at [scotsoflou@gmail.com](mailto:scotsoflou@gmail.com).

The deadlines for receipt of applications are March 31st and September 30th.

***WE ARE SO HAPPY TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!***

## President's Message

Greetings Scottish Society,

As we move from Summer into Fall the Highland Games and Renn Fairs are winding down. Our Society has been well represented this year by our members contributing their time throughout the season by manning the tables and aiding game attendees in their search of Scottish heritage. A big thank you to all and especially to our Celtic Commissioner Jack Bowling.

Moving forward, our next fun event is the annual potluck auction scheduled for October 24, 2023 at Strathmoor Presbyterian Church. You don't want to miss this one. Good food, good auction items and of course our own Vanna and Gary sashaying around to help our auctioneer.

Judy Stubbs, our Kirkist, has scheduled three kirkings to round out the year with the first at Okolona Presbyterian Church. The pageantry and parade of colorful flags by our members represents homage to their respective clans and to Scottish heritage.

Last, but not least, welcome to our new members, and Board members Shannon Fauver and Erica Rivertree.

Slainte',  
Dianne Holland, President



### Halloween in Scotland by Ben Johnson [www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Halloween-in-Scotland](http://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Halloween-in-Scotland)

Robert Burns, the famous Scottish poet, wrote about the myths, legends and traditions associated with Halloween in Scotland in his poem "Halloween", written in 1785. Halloween in Scotland is all about the supernatural, witches, spirits and fire.

The origins of Halloween can be traced back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (summer's end). The Celtic year was determined by the growing seasons and Samhain marked the end of summer and the harvest, and the beginning of the dark cold winter. The festival symbolized the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead.

It was believed by the Celts that on the night of 31st October, ghosts of the dead would walk again amongst them, and large bonfires were lit in each village in order to ward off any evil spirits. All house fires were put out and new fires lit from these great bonfires.

Whilst bonfires to scare away the undead are still lit in some areas of Scotland, more usually "neep" lanterns (turnip lanterns) are made by scooping out a turnip and cutting through the skin to create eyes, nose and mouth. A candle is then placed inside to make the lantern. These lanterns are also supposed to ward off evil spirits. Nowadays, thanks to the influence of American culture, pumpkins are as common as turnips for lanterns.

Many of the traditions Burns mentions in his poem "Halloween" still persist in Scotland to this day. From the second verse:

Some merry, friendly, country folks  
Together did convene,  
To burn their nits, an' pou their stocks,  
An' haud their Hallowe'en ....

(Translation) Some merry, friendly country people  
Together did convene,  
To burn their nuts, and pull their plants,  
And keep their Halloween ....

# SCOTTISH SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION



PROCEEDS BENEFIT STUDIES IN  
BAGPIPING, DRUMMING, ART, DANCING, LANGUAGE AND  
HIGHLAND GAME ATHLETICS

OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

STRATHMOOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2201 HAWTHORNE AVENUE

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 DINNER 6:30**

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING A DISH ACCORDING TO YOUR LAST NAME

**A-G** DESSERT

**H-M** VEGGIE/CASSEROLE

**N-Z** SALAD

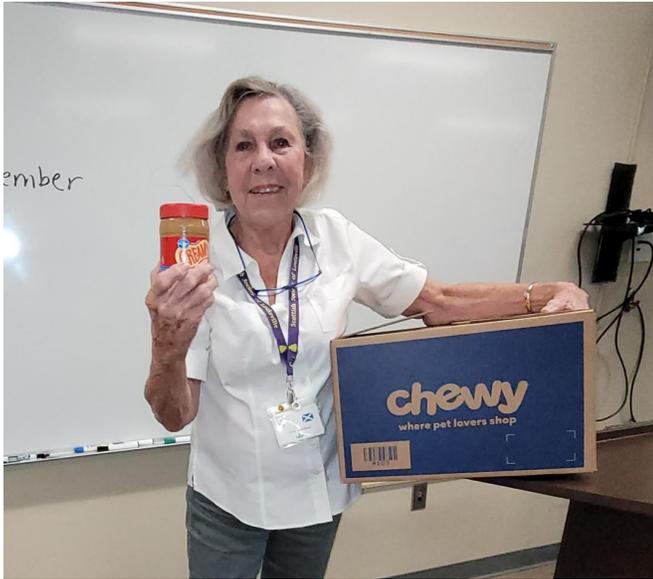
**AUCTION IDEAS FOR YOU TO BRING :**

Gift Baskets, e.g. Tea Lovers, Fruit, Wine and cheese, Chocolate, Christmas or Halloween Items, Anything Scottish or Celtic, Liquor, Gift Certificates

**Something that you would like to take home or give as a gift.**

## September 26, 2023 SSL Member Meeting Minutes

President Holland started the meeting by reminding us about the peanut butter drive. Please bring your donations to the October dinner and auction. There will be a Best Hat prize at this meeting, so find a doozy and wear it to the auction. Several local businesses have given or promised donations for the auction. They were happy to do so when they were approached by members.



There are upcoming kirkings (see Judy's article on page 8 for details), and next month's meeting will be refreshments and socializing for the members. There is no member meeting in December.

Ms. Holland with peanut butter, and a Chewy box to remind us that we can still ask for donations; Chewy is donating to our auction, as well as several other local businesses.

Vice President Schweitzer pointed out that we have only 28 days left 'til the auction! Check out the flyer on page 6 in this newsletter for details about what foods to bring. Parking at Strathmoor Church is behind, and to the right side of the church. Set up will begin at 4:30pm on that Tuesday of the membership meeting. If you help set up, please stay to help put the tables and chairs away. For some reason it takes longer to set up the tables and chairs than it does to put them away. I

As President Holland pointed out, we have received donations from several local businesses; Scottish Whisky decanters, designer handbags, tickets to the Belle of Louisville, Frazier museum and several gift cards to local restaurants, Sam Myers Formal Wear donated a \$300 gift certificate, and we have several others from \$25 to \$100 in value. Judy Stubbs and Mr. Schweitzer created a letter to use when approaching businesses and organizations for donations. These letters and tax paperwork for business donations were handed out at the meeting to those who wanted to help with donations.

Call Mr. Schweitzer if you get a donation so he can add them to his list.

The SSL is providing meat and non-alcoholic drinks, and the flyer designates the food items for members to bring.

The auction is our big fund-raiser for our Scholarship Fund. Any dress is fine; kilts, casual wear, and Halloween costumes. Don't forget your hat and your wallet! Friends are welcome, and do not need to bring a dish or donate to the auction items, though a peanut butter donation would be very welcome.



## September 26, 2023 SSL Member Meeting Minutes, cont.

Secretary Wilson thanked those who sent her photos and information for the newsletter. There was a lot going on in September!

Kirker Judy Stubbs sent around sign-up sheets for the three upcoming kirnings. Remember there are three ways to participate in kirnings; carry your own clan flag, carry an SSL flag, or join the congregation during the service. Please let Judy know if you need an SSL flag so she can bring enough. To contact Judy, call her at 502-541-7753 or email her at [J.STUBBS100@GMAIL.COM](mailto:J.STUBBS100@GMAIL.COM).

The first kirning will be on Sunday, Oct. 29th, at Okolona Presbyterian Church, 8015 Shepherdsville Rd, 40219. Flag bearers please be in the sanctuary by 10:25am. Bring a dish for their potluck .

The second kirning will be on Sunday, Nov. 19th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1015 East Main St, New Albany, IN 47150. Flag bearers gather in the sanctuary by 9:40am. A reception will be held in the carriage house beside the church.

The third kirning will be on Thursday, Nov. 30th, at the evening service of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, at St. Frances in the Field Episcopal Church, 6710 Wolf Pen Branch Rd, Harrods Creek, KY 40027. Flag bearers meet in the sanctuary at 6:45pm. A reception will be held afterwards in their dining room

Regional Celtic Commissioner Jack Bowling reported on the Eminence Scottish Highland Games. Heather McDowel received our Athlete of the Day Award. She also broke the world record for the light hammer toss by three feet! She threw it 101 feet.

Mr. Bowling said he will need more help at the Charlestown, IN Renaissance Faire, as he injured his shoulder at the Eminence Games and cannot lift or carry much. He passed around a sign-up sheet in an effort to get more assistance. This event will be called off if there are not enough people to set up, man the tables, and tear down our tent, table and materials.

There are upcoming kirnings (see Judy's article above), and next month's meeting will be refreshments and socializing for the members. There is no member meeting in December.

Communications Commissioner Erika Rivertree asked for recipes, event information, photos and videos, and told us that anyone can post on our Facebook if it is culturally relevant. Contact her by Facebook or email at [triskelehearth@gmail.com](mailto:triskelehearth@gmail.com). We need to get the word out about the SSL, as many people have never heard of us.

Janice Beatty shared her doll with all handmade Scottish dress. She won First Place and Best in Show at the Kentucky State Fair. A picture of her doll is in last month's newsletter.



## September 26, 2023 SSL Member Meeting Minutes, cont.

Program and Education Commissioner Shannon Fauver has set up two programs for next year, one about Highland Games, and the very popular Scottish Trivia contest. She would appreciate new ideas for other programs from our members.

President Holland reminded the members that the President's Award will be presented in October at the auction, and to please contact her with the names of those members who have contributed to the SSL's success throughout the past year. (see the nomination form in this newsletter)



Ms. Fauver introduced our speaker, SSL member Pat Schweitzer, with an interesting and highly educational program about the various Celtic Nations.

Ms. Schweitzer told us that The Celtic League had its start in 1961 at a music festival in Wales. Who would have thought! It was set up to promote the Celtic languages and culture.

There are several areas that are considered to be part of the Celtic Nations, spread across Europe. This culture appeared about 1200 B.C. Language is the defining characteristic used to determine whether an area is part of the Celtic Nations, and many cultures no longer speak the Celtic languages. Currently there are six areas considered to still speak Celtic languages; Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany (Spain). Irish and Welsh are taught in the schools as a mandatory subject in Ireland and Wales, though they are not always in daily use.

Robbin Goodin and Janice Beatty held up the flags for the flag presentation. The Saltire, the white X on a blue ground, is the Scottish flag; the flag of the Isle of Man is three armored legs with golden spurs, attached at the hips; the flag of Ireland is three vertical bars, green, white, and orange, standing for Catholics, peace, and Protestants; the flag of Wales is the red dragon Cadwallader, and recalls the Arthur legend of the Celts winning over the Britons; Cornwall's flag is a white cross on a black ground, referring to coal and white tin being smelted; the flag of the Britons has changed over the years, but has been the same since 1923 and the end of WWI, inspired by the American flag, it has 5 black horizontal stripes, 4 white stripes, and instead of stars, black ermine on a white ground.

The languages are gradually dying out in some areas, but are being taught and used in everyday speech in many others, even in the U.S. and Canada.

We want to thank Ms. Schweitzer for her fun and educational presentation.

**September 26, 2023 SSL Member Meeting Minutes, cont.**



The Scottish Saltire



The Welsh flag



The Isle of Man flag



The flag of Cornwall



The Irish flag



The flag of the Britons



## Scottish Society of Louisville President’s Award (in honor of our founding President, Alex Rose)

### **History**

The board of The Scottish Society of Louisville established the Alex Rose President’s Award in 2011 to honor The Society’s Founding President while recognizing the extraordinary contributions to The Society by an honoree. In 2021 the board voted to change the name to the President’s Award in honor of Alex Rose, our founding president.

This award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a Society Member who has demonstrated a pattern of contribution over a sustained period of time and whose contributions are widely recognized as helping the Society thrive.

### **Nominations**

Nominations are made by Scottish Society members and are reviewed and selected by the current SSL President.

The award is presented at the annual dinner and auction benefitting the Heritage Fund in October.

### **Past Recipients:**

2011—Marleen Bailie	2012—Jim Hughes	2013—June Wallace
2014—Jenny Dickson	2015—Pat Schweitzer	2016—John Dickson
2017—Gary Schweitzer	2018—Janice Beatty	2019—Sanford Berenberg
2020—no award/Covid	2021—no award/Covid	2022—Damien Burns
2023—Holley Holland	2024	

Please submit your nomination by filling out the nomination form online and emailing it to the president, Dianne Holland at [diannerholland@gmail.com](mailto:diannerholland@gmail.com). Otherwise, please mail the printed nomination form to The Scottish Society of Louisville, P.O. Box 32248, Louisville, KY 40232; or deliver it in person to our Society President at the next monthly meeting.

Deadline for nominations is **October 15th**.

The Scottish Society of Louisville  
In Honor of Alex Rose, our First  
President



## President's Award Nomination Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Please share why this Society member should be recognized for their contributions to The Scottish Society of Louisville.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your nomination! If filling out the nomination form online, please email it to the President, or by printing this form and mailing it to Scottish Society of Louisville, P.O. Box 32248; or by delivering it in person to our Society President at a membership meeting.

Deadline is October 15th each year.

Rev. 10/10/2023

## Clan Gunn



Online source: Clan Gunn Society of North America

The Clan Gunn crest shows a dexter (right) hand wielding a sword in a bend, with the motto “Either peace or war”, indicating a willingness and readiness to deal with whatever is at hand. Handy allies and good friends in a fight, no doubt.

The tartan is navy blue, green, black and red. Several SSL members are part of Clan Gunn, including Bruce and Linda Wilson, Jenny Dickson, Karen Robinson, Amy Johnson, Andrew Robinson, Scott Robinson, William and Rosetta Robinson, and Doris Wilson. There may be others, but a quick look at the member list turned up these names.

Read all you can about your clan(s), to dig up information about your clan connections.

### Poetry Corner

Hame by Mary Symon

God bless our land, our Scotland,  
Grey glen an’ misty brae,  
The blue heights of the Coolins,  
The green haughs yont the Spey,  
The weary wastes on Solway,  
Snell winds blow ower then a’-  
But aye it’s Hame, lad,  
Yours an’ mine, lad,  
Shielin’ or ha’.

It’s Hame, it’s Hame for ever,  
Let good or ill betide!  
The croon o’ some dear river,  
The blink o’ ae braeside.

## Upcoming Entertainment

**Mia & Ally** performing Celtic music at Headliners Music Hall, 1386 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY.

Doors open at 7:00, November 14. Doors open at 7:00, the show begins at 8:00pm. Reserved seats \$30, VIP tickets \$95. This is an All Ages event. Call 502-584-8088 for further details, or go to [Who Are We?](http://WhoAreWe?) ([miaxally.com](http://miaxally.com))

**Gaelic Storm** – November 11th @ 8pm ▪ Location: Louisville’s Mercury Ballroom

Do you love the blockbuster film TITANIC – GAELIC STORM is the band that played at the third class party – “so- do you want to go to a real party”?????

### Keltricity

- November 10th @ 6pm – The Raven – Louisville, KY
- January 28th @ 2pm – English Country Dance St. Andrews Episcopal Church – Louisville, KY
- March 2nd @ 2pm – Lexington Scottish Country Dance at Midway Presbyterian – Midway, KY
- March 3 rd @ 3pm – Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival – Salem, IN

For the latest information on performances, please visit:

[www.keltricity.com](http://www.keltricity.com)



If you are wondering why most of these do not show up on the calendars, it is because only events at which the SSL has a manned booth or table are included on the calendars.

# October 2023



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 SSL Board Meeting 	11	12	13 Set up for the Renaissance Faire	14 Charlestown, IN Renaissance Faire
15 Charlestown, IN Renaissance Faire	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 SSL Dinner & Auction 	25	26	27	28
29	30	31  Happy Halloween				

October Birthdays: Jason Goodin 4th, Abby McLeod 4th, Dan Bailie 6th, Gary Schweitzer 11th, Edyth Wheeler 11th, Peter Matallana 18th, Linda Wilson 18th, Debbie Walker 19th, Cheri Eskridge 20th



# November 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 	8	9	10	11 
12	13	14 SSL Board Meeting 	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28 SSL Member Meeting 	29	30		

November Birthdays: Judith Bennett 8th, Susan Osborn 8th, Dianne Holland 12th, Sam Bracken 14th, Bruce Campbell 16th, Jennifer McLeod 17th, Becky Johnson 19th, Jyll Stuart 21st, Mary Cunningham 25th, Jack Bowling 26th, Deanna Campbell 26th

